



Natural Resources Reporter

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In This Issue

- Seeding Native Grasses in the Arid Southwest
- Beginning Rancher Achieves in Bootheel
- Role of Soil Health Promoted
- Tierra y Montes SWCD and Adelante RC&D Team to Fight Weeds

Featured Links

[Energy Estimators](#)

[NRCS This Week](#)

[USDA In the News
en Espanol](#)

Soils Links

[Web Soil Survey](#)

[Soil Data Mart](#)

Most Popular Links

About NRCS NM

Access a quick guide to many of NRCS New Mexico's most popular websites

Programs

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eFOTG

See the technical guides that are the primary references for NRCS New Mexico

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2008 Farm Bill Update

Poised for quick action on this year's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) applications, both NRCS staff and applicants are eagerly awaiting revised program rules that are currently moving through the national clearing process. While it is anticipated most changes will be relatively minor, the new rules are likely to have some affect on this year's applications. This means the NRCS New Mexico is holding off on ranking applications received at this time. NRCS New Mexico is looking forward to implementing these valued programs, and appreciates the understanding of our producers as the 2008 Farm Bill rolls out.

Seeding Native Grasses in the Arid Southwest

Grass seeding is an uncertain endeavor even in the best of circumstances, but in the arid Southwest it is an extremely risky venture. NRCS New Mexico is releasing a new publication, "Seeding Native Grasses in the Arid Southwest" authored by David R. Dreesen, agronomist at the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, to aid residents to understand the important factors that influence the success of seeding native grasses in our state. Native grass seeding may be your answer to erosion control problems, riparian restoration, landscaping, range and wildlife habitat improvements, and other conservation issues. So as you are musing in front of the fireplace this winter and planning the next growing season's projects, consider downloading this document by [clicking](#)

Beginning Rancher Achieves in Bootheel



Sometimes it is hard to decide what approach to take when writing a conservation success story. That is true for the Kansas Massey story. Should it be about how her success is "All in the Family" or "Conservation Fits Ranching Operation Like a Hand in a Glove?" In Massey's case, both approaches are true. For the full story [click](#)

Role of Soil Health Promoted

*snow survey data and
water supply forecasts*

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Continued success in agriculture is dependent upon the ability to maintain soil health and manage water resources through conservation planning, according to New Mexico NRCS agronomists, water quality specialist, and soil scientists. And, they are out to increase understanding of the role conservation planning plays in the maintenance and improvement of soil health. For the full story [click](#)

SWCD and RC&D Team to Fight Noxious Weeds



The Tierra y Montes Soil & Water Conservation District and Adelante Resource Conservation & Development Council in Las Vegas, New Mexico teamed up to attack their noxious weed infestations. For the full story [click](#)

A Story Inside An EWP Story



Knowing a sleepy little stream could turn into a roaring monster following the Trigo fire motivated Natural Resource Conservation Service employees, with permission from owners of a camp, to develop a plan to protect structures and possible lives of campers in bunkhouses. For the full story [click](#)